

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Disposition

Claims 1 – 23, 26 - 28 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 – 15, and 26 – 28 have been allowed. Claims 18 – 23 are objected to. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication regarding the allowance of claims 1 – 15 and 26 – 28, as well as the allowability of claims 18 – 23. Claims 16 and 17 stand rejected. Claim 16 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 22. Claim 23 has been amended to correct its dependency.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Endo et al. U.S. Patent 6,407,524, hereinafter referred to as Endo. Applicants respectfully traverse. The Examiner in the Office Action states:

“Endo discloses an active steering system comprising Input device 1 communicating with differential actuator 5, Steering actuator/rack (as best understood), included in actuators (ci, In 31-33), communicating with the differential actuator, Motor 28, Differential unit 3, and, Controller 30 communicating with all elements for controlling a feedback torque to an operator.”

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to Claim 16 renders the rejection moot. Allowance of Claims 16 – 23 is respectfully requested.

The amendments and arguments presented herein are made for the purposes of better defining the invention, rather than to overcome the rejections for patentability. The claims were not amended to overcome the prior art and therefore, no presumption should attach that either the claims have been narrowed over those earlier presented, or that subject matter or equivalents thereof to which the Applicants are entitled has been surrendered.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and preceding remarks. It is believed that the foregoing remarks are fully

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responsive to the Office Action and that the claims herein should be allowable to the Applicants.

In the event the Examiner has any queries regarding the instantly submitted Response, the undersigned respectfully requests the courtesy of a telephone conference to discuss any matters in need of attention.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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